

1. WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER

A position paper is a formal document that represents the official stance of a delegate's assigned country or portfolio on the given agenda.

It is not an essay, not an opinion piece, and not a speech.

It is a policy document.

The purpose of a position paper is to:

- Demonstrate research and understanding
- Establish your country's stance before committee begins
- Show alignment with real-world policy
- Provide a foundation for your speeches and negotiation

A strong position paper ensures that when you enter the committee, you already have:

- A clear direction
- Defined arguments
- Structured solutions

2. CORE PRINCIPLE

Your position paper must always answer:

“What does my country/portfolio think, and what does it want?”

3. IDEAL STRUCTURE

Your position paper should have 3 structured paragraphs.

◆ PARAGRAPH 1: BACKGROUND OF THE ISSUE

Purpose: Show understanding of the agenda

You must include:

- What the issue is
- Why it exists
- Brief historical or contextual reference
- Why it is important globally or nationally

Do NOT:

- Go too deep into history
- Write unnecessary facts
- Make it too long

◆ PARAGRAPH 2: COUNTRY / PORTFOLIO STANCE

You must include:

- Your country's official position
- Past actions / policies
- Agreements / alliances / conflicts
- What your country supports or opposes

For Lok Sabha:

- Party ideology
- Government vs opposition stance
- Policy consistency

For UNSC:

- Foreign policy
- Strategic interests
- Allies and rivals

◆ PARAGRAPH 3: PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Include:

- What your country wants now
- Possible solutions
- Policy recommendations
- Steps that are realistic

Good solutions:

- Are actionable
- Match your country's stance
- Are not generic

Bad solutions:

- "Promote peace"
- "Ensure equality"
- "Improve conditions"

These are vague and weak.

4. WORD LIMIT & FORMAT

Recommended:

- 200–300 words
- 3 paragraphs
- Formal tone
- No bullet points

Font:

- Times New Roman
- Size 12
- Single spacing

5. RESEARCH GUIDELINES

ACCEPTABLE SOURCES:

- Government websites
- UN reports
- Official documents
- Reputed news (BBC, Al Jazeera, Reuters, The Hindu, Indian Express)
- Think tanks

NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- Wikipedia (can read, not cite)
- Blogs
- Instagram/YouTube summaries
- Biased media

6. LANGUAGE STYLE

WRONG:

“I believe that...”

“This is very unfair...”

“We should definitely...”

CORRECT:

“The delegation of [Country] believes...”

“The Government of [Country] maintains...”
“It is imperative to address...”

7. COMMON MISTAKES

Avoid these:

Writing like an essay

Too descriptive, no structure

Giving personal opinions

You are not yourself, you are a country

Ignoring country stance

This kills credibility instantly

Vague solutions

Weakens entire paper

Overwriting

Long ≠ good

8. HOW IT IS EVALUATED

Position papers are judged on:

1. Research Quality
 - Are facts accurate?
 - Is issue understood?
2. Policy Alignment
 - Does it match country/portfolio?
3. Clarity
 - Is it easy to understand?
4. Structure
 - Proper paragraph flow
5. Solutions
 - Are they realistic and relevant?

SAMPLE POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE: United Nations Security Council

AGENDA: The Iran–Israel Confrontation and its Repercussions for Middle East Stability

COUNTRY: United States of America

(DO NOT COPY - OTHERWISE THIS MAY LEAD TO NEGATION)

The ongoing confrontation between Iran and Israel represents one of the most critical security challenges in the Middle East. The conflict, rooted in ideological differences, regional power competition, and proxy engagements, has evolved into a direct strategic concern with implications for global stability. Escalations involving military actions, cyber operations, and regional alliances have increased the risk of a broader conflict, threatening international peace, energy security, and humanitarian conditions across the region.

The United States maintains a firm commitment to ensuring the security of its allies, particularly Israel, while also addressing the destabilizing actions of Iran in the region. The U.S. has consistently opposed Iran's expansion of military influence through proxy groups and has expressed concern over its nuclear program. At the same time, the United States supports diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions and preventing large-scale conflict, while maintaining a strong defense posture in collaboration with its allies.

The United States proposes a balanced approach combining deterrence and diplomacy. This includes strengthening monitoring mechanisms on nuclear activities, encouraging multilateral dialogue involving regional stakeholders, and enhancing defensive cooperation to prevent escalation. Additionally, the U.S. supports targeted diplomatic initiatives aimed at de-escalation while maintaining necessary pressure to ensure compliance with international norms. A coordinated international response is essential to prevent further instability and ensure long-term peace in the region.